

Remarks

This Response is supplemental to the Reply filed May 31, 2007. This Response is being filed following the submission of a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") on July 9, 2007, and should be entered as a matter right.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy shown to Applicants' representative during the brief telephone conference on August 7, 2007. The above amendments were discussed. For the reasons set forth below, the Applicants believe that the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner preliminarily agreed, and indicated that he would fully consider the amendments once made of record.

The Advisory Action mailed June 14, 2007 alleges that Clark is still considered prior art because the foreign priority document JP '474 does not support the full scope of the claim element "using alignment marks ..." in Claim 11. (It is believed that the end of the last paragraph on page 2 of the Advisor Action inadvertently mentions Martin while intending to reference Clark.) The Applicants respectfully disagree and maintain that JP '474 fully supports the subject matter of the claims. However, in order to expedite allowance of the application, and without acquiescing to the rejection, the Applicants have amended Claim 11.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite use of a camera to observe the alignment marks. Similarly, the claim has been amended to recite that the detection of the alignment marks is performed using a camera. Claim 12 has been cancelled. The priority document JP '474 fully supports the subject matter recited in the claims, as detailed in Applicants' response of May 31, 2007. Therefore, Clark is not prior art with respect thereto.

For these reasons and those more fully set forth in the Applicants' previous responses, it is requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. The Applicants submit that the Application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If further minor amendments or corrections as to matters of form will expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TDC', written over the printed name.

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